

City of Flagstaff

News Release

June 24, 2013

Four Finalists Announced for Flagstaff Fire Chief Position

The public is invited to meet the candidates Wednesday, June 26 at 5:30 p.m. at Flagstaff City Hall

Four finalists have been invited to in-person interviews for the job of Chief of the Flagstaff Fire Department. The City of Flagstaff received more than 70 applications and conducted phone interviews with 15 candidates prior to selecting six finalists for in-person interviews. Two recently withdrew from consideration. The four finalists include:

Gerald Bills has served as Deputy Chief of the Flagstaff Fire Department for the past 7 years. Prior to Flagstaff, Bills worked as a Battalion Chief for Seminole County Fire Rescue for more than 3 years and was the Assistant Chief for the Altamonte Springs Fire Department for 3 years. He earned his Master of Business Administration and his Bachelor of Science in Business and Professional Management from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Mark Gaillard has been the Fire Chief for the City of Goodyear since 1986 where he oversaw its transition from a small volunteer department to the full service department it is today. Gaillard also served as an Interim Deputy City Manager (and Fire Chief) for the City of Goodyear from 2009 to 2011. He earned his Master of Science and Technology degree from Arizona State University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Phoenix.

Jay Riley is the Fire Chief for the City of Marysville Division of Fire in Marysville, Ohio. He has served that role since January, 2012. Prior to that, he served 4 years as the Assistant Chief/Paramedic for the City of Marysville, 12 years as a Lieutenant/Paramedic for the City of Green, Ohio and 5 years with the Holmes Ohio Fire District; 3 of those years as Assistant Chief. He has an Associate Degree in Fire Services and a Bachelor Degree in Fire and Safety Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ronald Thompson has spent the last 2 years as the Deputy Chief of the Inspection Unit for the Missouri Division of Fire Safety in Jefferson City, Missouri. He served nearly 4 years as Fire Chief for the Pagosa Fire Protection District in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. He worked for nearly 12 years for the Independence

Missouri Fire Department moving from an Assistant Chief/Shift Commander to Deputy Chief. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, Alabama.

The four finalists will be in Flagstaff this week for an extensive three-day interview process, including an informal reception where the public is invited to meet the candidates and offer their feedback through comment cards. The public gathering will take place on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Flagstaff City Hall Lobby, 211 W. Aspen Avenue